

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SP-03 L-03 INT-08 NSF-04 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

COA-02 DLOS-07 IO-14 CG-00 DOTE-00 ABF-01 DODE-00

/106 W

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R 031500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0539

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FOR SCI (RICHMOND AND DR. ALLEN ASTIN); PLEASE PASS DR.
J. E. MCKELVEY, US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TGEN

SUBJECT: FRENCH-US SCIENCE COOPERATION: JOINT USGS-IFP
ATLANTIC OCEAN SEISMIC SURVEY PROJECT

REFS: A. STATE 098935 B. PARIS 12006 C. PARIS 11694

SUMMARY: WITH EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY (USGS) AND THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS DU PETROLE (IFP)
HAVE REACHED PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON CONDUCTING A JOINT
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY IN BLAKE PLATEAU AREA OF ATLANTIC
OCEAN. BY JOINING WITH AN ALREADY PLANNED IFP
RESEARCH CRUISE AND SHARING COSTS EQUALLY, THE USGS
STANDS TO SAVE ABOUT \$100,000 IN PERFORMING A NEEDED
SURVEY. THE ACCORD WILL BE CONCLUDED BY AN EXCHANGE OF
LETTERS BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES. ITS DETAILS ARE GIVEN
BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. REF A EXPLAINS THAT THE USGS WISHES TO JOIN WITH IFP
IN CONDUCTING A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON THE SOUTHEAST
GEORGIA EMBANKMENT BLAKE PLATEAU ON THE EASTERN CONTIN-
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ENTAL MARGIN OF NORTH AMERICA. BY JOINING WITH A FRENCH

RESEARCH VESSEL, THE FLORENCE, ALREADY PLANNED TO BE IN THE AREA, USGS ESTIMATES IT WOULD SAVE APPROXIMATELY \$5,000 PER DAY DURING THREE WEEKS REQUIRED FOR THE SURVEY. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR US AND FRENCH SCIENTISTS TO OBTAIN GEOPHYSICAL DATA DURING A CRUISE OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS IN DECEMBER 1974. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED JOINT PROJECT IS TO ESTABLISH THE GEOPHYSICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE BLAKE PLATEAU, RELATE IT TO THE ON-SHORE GEOLOGY OF THE ADJACENT SUBMERGED COASTAL PLAN AND DETERMINE THE CONTINENTAL OCEAN BOUNDARY.

2. DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17 VISITING USGS OFFICIALS JOHN BEHRENDT AND ROBERT FOOTE DEVELOPED A DRAFT ACCORD WITH THE IFP. EMBASSY SCIATT AND CONTRACTING OFFICER PROVIDED THEM ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION. THIS ACCORD WILL BE CONCLUDED BY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES CONDUCTED THROUGH THE OFFICES OF THE EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR.

3. MAIN FEATURES OF THE ACCORD ARE:

- A) THE PROJECT IS A JOINT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH VENTURE AND WILL BE SO TREATED AND PUBLICIZED TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT IFP IS PERFORMING GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE USGS AND THUS COMPETING WITH PRIVATE SURVEY FIRMS.
- B) THE PROJECT WILL CONSIST OF DATA COLLECTION AT SEA AND DATA PROCESSING, COOPERATIVE ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION AND RESEARCH PUBLICATION AT BOTH RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.
- C) THE ORIGINAL DATA RECORDINGS WILL BE COPIED BY IFP IN THE COURSE OF THE INITIAL DATA PROCESSING AND THEN HELD IN REPOSITORY BY USGS AND IFP FOR AVAILABILITY TO ANY ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUALS OF ANY NATIONALITY ENGAGED IN GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, IN KEEPING WITH US POLICY.
- D) ALL COSTS OF DATA COLLECTION AND MULTI-CHANNEL SEISMIC REFLECTION DATA PROCESSING WILL BE SHARED ON A 50-50 BASIS BY USGS AND IFP, WITH COSTS BEING DEFINED BY THE NUMBER OF KILO-

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- METERS OF SURVEY TRACK MADE AND ACCORDING TO AN AGREED-UPON COST OF DATA COLLECTION AND MULTI-CHANNEL DATA PROCESSING PER KILOMETER OF TRACK.
- E) USEMB/PARIS CONTRACTING OFFICER WILL BE FORMALLY DESIGNATED BY USGS TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO IFP.
- F) THIS CONTRACTING OFFICER WILL MAKE PAYMENTS TO IFP WHEN USGS CERTIFIES HIM TO DO SO.

G) TWO SUCH PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE, FIRST WHEN THE DATA COLLECTION PHASE IS COMPLETED AND SECOND WHEN THE DATA PROCESSING PHASE IS COMPLETED.

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H) THE DATA ACQUISITION AND MULTI-CHANNEL PROCESSING ARE TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE COMPLETION OF THE SURVEY AT SEA.
K) ALL DATA RESULTING FROM THIS PROJECT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OPEN LITERATURE.

4. THIS ACCORD WILL BE FORMALIZED BY THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN USGS AND IFP AS SOON AS IT IS APPROVED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. THE MECHANICS OF LETTER EXCHANGE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) IFP WILL SUBMIT A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING TO USGS VIA SCICON USEMB PARIS;

B) SCICON WILL FORWARD THIS LETTER WITH A STATE-

3 MENT OF CLEARANCE FROM USEMB CONTRACTS OFFICER;

C) USGS WILL RESPOND WITH A LETTER REITERATING THE UNDERSTANDING, THE ORIGINAL OF THIS LETTER

WILL BE SENT VIA SCICON AND EMBASSY CONTRACTS
OFFICER TO IFP;

D) A COPY OF USGS'S LETTER OF RESPONSE WILL BE
SENT TO THE USEMB PARIS CONTRACTING OFFICER
WITH A LETTER AUTHORIZING HIM TO SERVE AS

USGS CONTRACTING OFFICER FOR THIS PROJECT AND

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PROVIDING HIM WITH APPROPRIATE FISCAL DATA.

5. COMMENT: SCI MAY WISH TO CONTACT DR. JOHN C.
BEHRENDT (USGS, WOODS HOLE, MASS., 02543, TELEPHONE 617
548 3705, EXTENSION 527) TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF A
NEWS RELEASE ABOUT THE PROJECT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT
THE IFP IS AN EQUAL PARTNER IN THE JOINT RESEARCH PRO-
JECT AND IS NOT PERFORMING GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SERVICES
FOR THE USGS.

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